

TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY COMMITTEE

**Friday, December 8, 2023**

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Milner 614A, Conference Room

**Agenda**

**Members Attending:** Sally Nadeau, Tyvell Washington, Ross Vancil, Joe Hendrix, Mallory Jallas

**Guests Attending:** Bookstore (Larry & Bob)

**Members Absent:** Julie Murphy, Lisa Lawless

**Call to Order: 10:02**

**Action Items:**

1. Minute taker- Nadeau (Jallas and Lawless have served so far)
2. Review and approve [draft minutes from November meeting](#)
3. Determine January meeting time

**Information Items:**

1. No update from Academic Senate Chair about student textbook survey presentation timeline
2. Textbook Donation program – not able to meet due to scheduling conflicts. Lawless is attempting to set meeting time.
3. Milner spring eTextbooks rolling out – Provost will send out notice to faculty mid-December.
4. Preview exploring options to integrate more information about textbooks for first time in college students – upcoming meeting with Preview to report on in January

**Discussion Items:**

1. Conversation with Redbird Spirit Shop about textbooks
  - a. Questions for conversation (jumping off points for discussion):
    - i. What's going well?
      1. Communication with campus -  
Student email list now so that they can better communicate with students directly  
More use of QR codes, other marketing strategies
      2. Marketing-  
North Street location recently had Alamo sign removed and is now updated with Redbird Spirit Shop signage  
Ribbon cutting for Redbird Spirit Shop will be in February (2/14)
    - ii. What are needs for improvements?
      1. What are "Textbooks" vs. "Course Materials" now that textbooks are broader than just a physical book.  
Access code vs. Digital. No physical card given for digital vs. Access code has to be picked up/shipped. Digital is more immediate. Moving towards more digital access – more choices on how long to have.  
Publisher ISBN's don't always match ISBN through bookstore.
    - iii. Store accessibility – how many students are going into the physical store vs. Delivery
      1. Increase in online orders and shipping. Less drop-in textbooks, increase

- iv. What are the opportunities for partnerships related to textbook affordability?
  - 1. Plan to have on-going communication now that the Redbird Spirit Shop is the official university bookstore.
- v. What are your major channels of communication with students and topics you are covering?
- vi. Are you receiving textbook adoption information in a timely manner and does this impact student access?
  - 1. Yes, work closely with Registrar Office – who reaches out to departments to encourage submitting requests in a timely manner.
- vii. Students report delaying textbook purchasing – what impact does this have from your perspective?
  - 1. Preview – Communicate importance of having materials before courses start.
- viii. What is the average cost of textbooks for specific majors/programs?
- ix. Other
  - 1. Connect Adopt - Conversation about software for instructors to be able to search and select their own adoptions.
  - 2. Library Resources – Would like to know what resources Milner has to not over purchase or have an increase in returns.
  - 3. Deadline to return books – Matches Registrar Office drop deadline.

2. Spring Plans

- a. Faculty textbook survey
3. Announcements/Miscellaneous:
- a. Open to attending a spring 2024 meeting to continue the discussions.